

Letter sent April 27 1918 from Patt McHugh to his parents and siblings.

1335 E52 St

Chicago Ill

My Dear Father, Mother, Brother and Sisters

just a line to let you know that I am in the best of health, thanks to God, also Sisters Brother & family.

Well, Honnie dear I received your welcomed letter & was glad to know every body was fine & enjoying health & life as usual particularly my dear Father & Mother, also I was glad to know that you received my money (check) which I sent you for the races, sorry ye did not have any races in Milltown, this Easter. Well Honnie I find out you are studying in Tuam God Grant that you may be successful & if any time you need money, write & let me know & be sure & let me know when you are going in for

2. training & I will pay the bill no matter what it shall be, as my intentions were set, on seeing all my sisters in some positions in Ireland, rather than see them come here, it is good for girls, but it is much better for men, they can get along better & get a head much quicker, had I been fortunate enough for the next 4 or 5 coming years like I had been in the past, I assure you that I could live good on either side of the Atlantic.

Well Father & Mother I am going to break the news to you about my present position in life. I am now in the United States army for the last three weeks & I dont want you to feel bad about it, I will be all right with God's help & his Virgin Mother as it is God who protects and saves us all, I am 1300 miles from Chicago in a seaport Town called Portland Main I am up there with hundreds of other fellows we are there for the protection of the coast against

3. the enemy. I think I am pretty fortunate to be sent up here, as I may be left here, There are lots of Irish lads with me & they are all a fine bunch of fellows, infact they are drafting every young man in the country into the service, as they intend to put an end to the war, as soon as possible,

Well dear ones, I hated to leave Chicago, and I think I made it pretty lonely for sisters, as I never was content only when I was out to see them & they tell John a lot about me, I could not tell you all now. Chicago is a fine city, I was so content there & had a very nice position there, I am sending you a picture in uniform where I was a train man in Chicago & I am sending

[4] you one in my civilian clothes to show you what I look like now, I look much about the same only some of my hair began to fall out & it leaves me a higher forehead than usual, I am sending one Picture to my Father & the other to my Mother in remembrance of your Son Patt & perhaps they would be a good reminder of saying a little prayer for me & my safe return,

Well dear ones I beg of you all not to worry about me but say a little prayer for me & if it is my lot I may never see the battle field, send my letters to Delia & she will forward

them to me. John is exempted on account of being married, Foye was not drafted yet, but I am scared he will, sooner or later, Martin Godwin was rejected, Now as I am in a hurry to go to bed I will send my best wishes & fondest love to all & will say Good Bye Good luck & God Bless you all as I remain your ever devoted & affectionate Son & Brother Patt, to Father & Mother Brother & Sisters Good Bye  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

P.S. Write often to me as I will write to you often & say a little prayer for my safe return, How are the Heneghans send all news

Good Bye

Patt xx to loving Parents

Transcribed by Margaret Marlow with punctuation, grammar and spelling as in the original.

13 April 2023